

# Swamp Fox Scene



A FREE monthly news magazine for the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City

RunFest,  
Chili Cook-off,  
Living History  
& more ...  
See Page 4!



**Support your teams!**  
City of Marion Recreation Department basketball is underway and All-Star teams will be named in just a couple of weeks. Thanks for supporting our basketball players and coaches!



With Spring cleaning coming up, yard sales will be popping up all over town! **Remember to purchase your permit (\$3 per day) at City Hall Monday through Thursday. No yard sale permits are issued on Fridays.** Call Pam at 423-5961 if you have questions.

## Have perspective, vision, character, Senator tells Chamber members

T. Carroll Atkinson III is the 2012 recipient of the Marion Chamber of Commerce's Community Service award, given at the Chamber's annual meeting on Jan. 23.

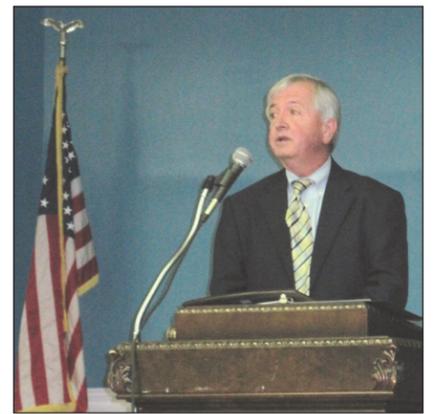
Atkinson, shown at right, a lifelong resident of Marion County, is a Marion High School graduate, Marion businessman and has served as Probate Judge since 1987. The annual recipient of the award is given \$250 by the Chamber to donate to the charity of his or her choice. The award has been given by the Chamber since 1979 and in 1980, Atkinson's father won the award.

Sen. Yancy McGill was guest speaker at the event, which highlights the Chamber's accomplishments for

the year and recognizes incoming and outgoing Chamber Board members and President. McGill, who has served in the state Senate since 1989 is up for reelection this November. The district McGill represents, before redistricting, included portions of Marion County and McGill said he feels at home visiting here.

McGill told those attending the Chamber meeting it is important to have perspective, vision and character and that when called upon to serve, they should do so. "Vision makes a big difference in a community," he said. "I've never forgotten Marion's work ethic," he added.

Out-going President Ashley Brady passed the gavel to Alan Zeman. Brady said



during the coming year the Chamber will again hold its "Shredding Day" after taxes are filed, will again support the upcoming Celebrating Gen. Francis Marion Days and continue to promote Marion throughout the state. Marion Mayor Rodney Berry presented McGill with a Swamp Fox, a commissioned metal art piece, as thanks for visiting the city.

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF MARION COUNTY PRESENTS

### A VALENTINES DAY DINNER

HOSTED BY  
Tom Griggs  
Proprietor of

Rosewood Manor  
900 North Main Street, Marion, S.C.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
Bobby Thomas  
Member of the James Beard Foundation  
Owner/Chef of Lunch, Marion, S.C.

#### BILL OF FARE

*Bruschetta*

*Fried Green Tomatoes with a champagne beurre blanc sauce and crab meat*

*Tricoloré Salad, baby arugula, endive, and radicchio with Vin Santo, a red wine and balsamic vinegar reduction*

*Lobster Savannah, a lobster carapace stuffed with lobster itself, aromatic vegetables sauteed with butter, cream and cognac, nestled on a bed of saffron rice*

*Flourless Chocolate Cake dressed with berry coulis with a crème chantilly*

*Complimentary Wine*

**FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> 2012**

7 P.M.

OPEN TABLE SEATING

Reservations must be made before February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012

\$50.00 PER PERSON

Special arrangements for accommodations are available at Rosewood Manor.

Tickets available at  
**THE MARION EMPORIUM**  
405 NORTH MAIN STREET  
843-275-9899

## Chef is ready to create fine fare for Valentines

The Arts Council of Marion County is presenting a special Valentines Day Dinner at Rosewood Manor for the first 30 people to RSVP by Feb. 6. The special event will be hosted by Rosewood's owner Tom Griggs.

Chef Bobby Thomas, who with his wife Carol, has owned and operated "Lunch" on Dozier Street in Marion for almost a year, will create and present the evening's fare. Thomas, whose restaurant walls hold stories telling of his career as a chef in New York state, relocated to Marion on New Year's Day in 2011. Taking some of his first lessons from renown Chef Marcella Hazan, regarded by many as America's godmother of Italian cooking, Thomas's favorite dishes are Italian meals and his famed fish chowder. Another speciality is his homemade cheesecake.

Open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., the Thomases also provide meals to go at the end of the work days, Wednesday through Saturday. For more information about the Thomases, "Lunch" or Italian cooking, call Bobby or Carol at 843-423-7000.

# CITY NEWS .....

## City selects two officers as Employees of the Month

The City of Marion selected two police officers as the December 2011 Employees of the Month. PFC Christopher Hucks and Sgt. Keith McNeil (left to right above) responded to an attempted bank robbery on Dec. 29, 2011.

Because of their quick thinking and rapid response, the suspect was taken into custody before leaving the bank.

Hucks, going through a Marion County Central Dispatch telecommunicator, communicated with one of the bank's tellers by telephone.

With the help of the teller and dispatcher, he was able to positively identify the suspect. Then, once McNeil arrived on scene, the two were able to safely arrest the suspect.

"Their quick thinking and teamwork



resulted in a successful arrest with no one being injured," said Marion Police Chief Jim Gray.

McNeil graduated from the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy in 2007, and was the recipient of the Chief's Award for 2009.

He is the Delta Shift supervisor. McNeil has a positive attitude, a strong work ethic, and a demeanor that is personable and professional.

Hucks was originally hired by the City of Marion Police Department in February 2008. He left Marion in 2009 to work as a police officer for the Town of Aynor and returned to Marion in February 2010.

Hucks is assigned to Delta shift. He is well respected by his peers and in the community.

Mayor Rodney Berry and Council members recognized McNeil and Hucks for their Dec. 29 efforts during the Jan. 10 Council meeting.

They were thanked for their commitment to serving the citizens and visitors of the City of Marion.

### Computer Lab is available

Computers are available for use from 9 a.m.- noon and 2-4 p.m. in the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center on Elizabeth Street. Robbie Johnson of the City Recreation



Department oversees the center. For information about the computer lab, call the recreation department at 843-423-5410.



### And the walls came tumbling down!

County and city employees demolished the old Marion jail on U.S. Highway 76, Liberty Street, during the start of the New Year.

### Coming up .....

#### Keep up with what's going on in and around Marion!

#### February 1st- 29th

Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Marion County Schools Art Exhibit, Grades 3-12, Marion County Museum, 101 Willcox Ave.

#### February 1st

Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Olde Towne Marion, HMRA's Rise & Shine, Fred's Karate Studio on Main Street. Everyone welcome. Call Chuck at 423-9918 for details.

#### February 4th

Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Katie's Project will have the dress boutique open for girls needing prom dresses and accessories. Beeson Building, off U.S. Highway 76; For more details, call Sharon Grice, 423-8285.

#### February 6th

Reservations due for Valentine's Dinner. (See Page 1 for details.)

#### February 12th

Sunday, 3-5 p.m., Art Exhibit reception, Marion County Museum.

#### February 13th

Monday, 5:30 p.m., Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (Second Monday of the Month), Fire Station, Bond Street.

#### February 14th

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., City Council (Second Tuesday of the Month), Council Chambers, City Hall, 107 S. Main Street. 7 p.m., Valentines Dinner at Rosewood Manor. (See Page 1 for details.)

#### February 20th

Monday, President's Day, Federal Offices closed; City Offices open.

Monday, 6:30 p.m., Marion's Fox Watch meeting, 332 N. Main Street.

#### February 21st

Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, begins Lent, a 40-day period of abstinence, repentance and prayer. The Episcopal Church of the Advent, Main Street, will have its annual Pancake Supper commemorating the season. To get tickets, call 423-5402.

#### February 24th

Friday, 9:15 a.m., Francis Marion Memorial Day Wreath-laying, Gen. Francis Marion statue on Main Street. Inclement weather would move this into the C.D. Joyner Fine Arts Center, Elizabeth Street.

4-7 p.m., Early registration for the Historic Marion RunFest, Opera House.

5 p.m., Revolutionary War living history camps begin set up on the Marion County Library lawn. Campsites open to the public. Call Dianne at 423-5961, Ext. 21, for details.

#### February 25th

Saturday, 9 a.m., Historic Marion RunFest begins at the Opera House

Noon, Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off. Get your \$8 ticket and come enjoy! Call Steve at 843-468-8366 for details.

9:30 a.m., Revolutionary War Living History exhibitors, demonstrators, camps open to the public.

#### FOODS & FILMS ...

Contact Brian Nolan for information on Marion's new Foodie group and Film Club, sponsored by the Arts Council of Marion County. Call him at 843-250-4322 or e-mail him at [briannolane-mail@gmail.com](mailto:briannolane-mail@gmail.com). You may also find the groups on Facebook.

**THREE WEEKENDS IN FEBRUARY:** Marion Baptist Church will play host to its annual presentation of Judgment House: **Saturday & Sunday 11th & 12th; 18th & 19th; and 25th & 26th.** Call (843) 423-9083 and reserve your spot to see this year's show in the Marion Baptist Church, Main Street.

#### Coming in March ...

**MARION COUNTY MUSEUM:** Wonderful Wednesday, March 21st, Becky Shuford, Book Signing and Lunch, highlighting her new children's book: "Woody and the Hens."

Glenn Hayes will display his artwork during March and April.

# SPORTS & RECREATION .....

## Coming Up We're online!

The City of Marion Recreation Department has a Facebook Page and is on the Internet, on the [www.Marionsc.gov](http://www.Marionsc.gov) web site. Find us under "Residents" and then click on "Recreation." To find us on Facebook, search Marion Recreation Department!

**Interested in Yoga?  
Call 423-3561!**

## Join us for aerobics!

Get moving and keep moving with our FREE Senior Aerobics class ... Senior Aerobics is offered in the Watsonia Recreation Center on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Anyone interested in the class can visit any session and talk to Anna Boatwright, instructor.

The program is off to a great start this year and there's plenty of room for newcomers to join in.

Call Cheryl at 423-5410 for more information.

Additionally, anyone interested in working out during the week can take part in the recreation department's **daily aerobics classes** in a C.D. Joyner classroom, 221 Elizabeth Street, Monday-Friday 5:30-6:30 p.m. The cost for the class, led by Lillie Ann Sanders, is \$30 per month and there are plenty of slots available for new participants. So, don't sit around and think that you are too late to join! Enrollment is continuous. Come, bring some friends and check out the class.

Just call Cheryl at 423-5410 if you have any questions.

## Spring sports registration ends Feb. 16

Marion Recreation Department is accepting Baseball and Softball sign-ups. The deadline to sign up for the Spring sports is Feb. 16.

To register, visit Watsonia Recreation Center, 100 Recreation Drive, Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The registration fee is \$16 per child living inside the city limits with proof of residency and \$30 for those residing outside the city limits.

Even if your child has played sports with the Marion Recreation Department previously, a copy of the child's birth certificate is needed at the time of registration.

**NO BIRTH CERTIFICATE, NO SIGN UP!**

The following ages will be offered:

**BASEBALL:**

- 5-6 (BOYS & GIRLS) PEE WEE MINORS
- 7-8 (BOYS & GIRLS) PEE WEE MAJORS
- 9-10 (BOYS) DIXIE MINORS
- 11-12 (BOYS) DIXIE MAJORS
- 13-14 (BOYS) DIXIE BOYS

**SOFTBALL:**

- 9-10 (GIRLS) ANGELS
- 11-12 (GIRLS) PONYTAILS
- 13-15 (GIRLS) BELLES

*Cut off dates: April 30th for baseball and December 31st for softball. The age of the child on these dates will be used as the playing age.*

### Looking for outdoor fun? Visit the city's playgrounds

The following playgrounds are free to the public and provide free fun for the kids.

**Watsonia Recreation Center**, 100 Recreation Drive. The playground is next to the building with a slide, monkey bars and swings.

**Grice's Recreation Center**, 603 Gurley Street. This location has been updated with new playground equipment. This site also has a basketball court behind the center and a walking track to the side.

**Tilghman Park**, 409 Montgomery Street. This is

the city's location for T-ball and coach-pitched baseball. It also has slides, hobby horses, swings, and a merry-go-round

**Withlacoochee Park, Withlacoochee Avenue.** This location has also been updated with new equipment for the children. This site holds Marion's new Tennis Courts and a walking track.

### Twice each month Bingo! is played in the Watsonia Rec Center

Bingo is offered at the Watsonia Recreation Center on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 8:15-9:15 a.m. There is room

for more to join in the fun. There are refreshments for all and prizes for those who win. If you have any questions about this program please call 423-5410.

### Need a rental?

It's that time of the year to begin planning cookouts, family get togethers, birthday parties, etc. The Recreation Department might have the perfect place for your events.

From Watsonia and Grice's Recreation Centers to our outdoor Pop Dorsey Picnic Shelter, check with us to see if your date is available.

Call Cheryl at 423-5410 for more information about rentals.



### Employees get tree trimming training

Dena Jacobs, far left, with the S.C. Forestry Commission, met with employees from the City of Mullins and City of Marion to discuss proper tree trimming methods. Specifically, Jacobs is discussing how to properly trim Crepe Myrtle trees.

**Visit the Marion Chamber's Facebook page and discover their latest news and things to do!**

**Also on Facebook are The City of Marion and the Farmers Market & Market Place!**

The *Swamp Fox Scene* is produced in City Hall and is the City of Marion's **free** monthly news magazine for citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina.

It is printed by Herald Multi-forms in Dillon, S.C. City of Marion employees Cheryl Askins, Elizabeth Ficik, Winky Fore, Pam Jones and Dianne Owens comprise the paper's staff. Call Pam if you are interested in sponsoring an issue. The newspaper is distributed by city employee Dennis Brown and may be found in City Hall, in the Marion Chamber of Commerce's office in the Historic Train Depot, in the Historic Marion Revitalization Association office on Main Street and in other spots around town. Call us if you'd like to be a distribution point. The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

Call Mayor Rodney Berry or the City Administrator at 843-423-5961 for more information.

**Questions about your water or sewer bill?**

Call Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority at  
**(843) 765-4539**  
or visit them  
in City Hall on Main Street.

# 2nd annual Celebrating Gen. Francis Marion Days!

... is sure to be a fun, educational experience for the entire family! Visit [www.marionsc.gov](http://www.marionsc.gov) for details & updates.

## Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off set to torment, tempt taste buds

The third annual Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off and benefit, created by local businessman Steve Pool, will be on East Court and Dozier Streets in downtown Marion on Feb. 25. Taste buds will be tormented and tempted when tasters sample, and cast ballots for, their favorite home-cooked chili.

Beginning at noon, the voting and chili sampling will continue until a winner is announced and the last cup of chili is consumed. Chili challengers should sign up now, Pool said.

There is no entry fee, but registration is necessary.

The success of the annual event, which brought about 1,800 people through the city in 2011, is measured in "smiles, positive attitudes and requests for similar community events to be created," Pool, owner of Accent Signs And Promotions (ASAP), said.

Competitors are responsible for purchasing their ingredients, cooking and keeping their chili hot for the competition. Each entry must provide five gallons of chili. All information is included in the online entry form, available at [www.swampfoxchilicookoff.com](http://www.swampfoxchilicookoff.com).

Also, individuals and businesses are invited to help sponsor the event and will get free tickets to the cook-off, have their names included on a T-shirt and mentioned in other cook-off promotions.

Tickets to attend the cook-off are available from various Marion County nonprofits. Group members sell the tickets and keep the \$8 per ticket fee, for a 100-percent profit as a fundraiser, Pool explained. Tickets are available at the Historic Marion Revitalization Association on Main Street. For more info, call Pool at (843) 765-5583 or e-mail him at [accentsignsprint@yahoo.com](mailto:accentsignsprint@yahoo.com).



## Runners prepare to take to Marion's streets

The second annual Historic Marion RunFest will be conducted during the Celebrating Francis Marion Days, with races starting at the Historic Marion Opera House on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Beginning at 9 a.m. are the 5K Cub Run/Walk, 10K Mayor's Run/Walk, and 10-Mile Swamp Fox Challenge. Beginning at 11 a.m. is a Tot Trot, 50-yard dash, and then at 11:30 is the 1-Mile Church Challenge.

All courses are USATF certified and described as "very flat and fast." All runners will run concurrently through the city's Historic District and residential areas. Race Management Systems (RMS Sports) will manage the race and direct the running. RMS is a nationally recognized sports management company that has been producing running events for more than 28 years.

For more information, and to register, visit [www.rmssports.com](http://www.rmssports.com) and click on the calendar for the upcoming event. Also, entry forms are available in City Hall and around town in various locations.

Mail in registrations must be mailed by Feb. 18. Registrations can be dropped off at City Hall until Feb. 22 and early registration will be conducted on Feb. 24 beginning at 4 p.m. in the Opera House on the corner of West Court and Godbold Streets. Registration resumes at 6 a.m. on Race Day.

ChronoTrack timing, featuring the disposable D-tag, will be used.



### Registration fees are

|         | Now  | Race Day |
|---------|------|----------|
| 1 Mile  | \$10 | \$15     |
| 5K      | \$15 | \$20     |
| 10K     | \$20 | \$25     |
| 10 Mile | \$30 | \$40     |

Tot Trot is free.

For more information, call Pam in City Hall 423-5961.

## Living History Exhibits, Demonstrations Join us in remembering our American hero!

For details, visit [www.marionsc.gov](http://www.marionsc.gov) and [www.theswampfox.com](http://www.theswampfox.com) or call the Marion Chamber of Commerce, 843-423-3561, or the City of Marion, 843-423-5961, Ext. 21.

### Friday, Feb. 24

5-7:30 p.m.: Reenactors set camps; Free hot cider & gingerbread; Fireside chats and the chance to learn about the hobby of Revolutionary War reenacting, exhibiting and demonstrating; Marion County Library lawn on Godbold Street.

### Saturday, Feb. 25

9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.: Revolutionary War military exhibitors, demonstrations and more on the Marion County Library lawn on Godbold Street; Soap making, Candle making, Open fire cooking and other 18th century skills, spinning and tomb stone carving ... Camps open to the public.

### Sunday, Feb. 26

9:30 a.m.: 18th Century worship service, Marion Presbyterian Church, Main Street.  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.: Revolutionary War military exhibitors, demonstrations and more on the Library lawn on Godbold Street; 18th century skills such as blacksmithing and hide tanning, living history & more ..... Camps open to the public.



## T-Mobile has ribbon-cutting

The Marion Chamber of Commerce board members and friends welcomed the T-Mobile family to their new location on Jan. 6 during the new store's Grand Opening. T-Mobile is now located on U.S. Highway 76 in what some remember as the old Russell Stover Candy Store. Jessica Hunt is the store manager and will be glad to help you with information on the products and services that T-Mobile offers. Contact her at 423-2355. Robert Keyser, district sales representative was on hand for the opening.



## Chamber recognizes Yard of the Month

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Skorput, 206 Country Club Road, have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for January 2012. The Chamber is pleased to recognize those in our community that work so diligently and add so much to our community's unique character. Mr. and Mrs. Skorput will be receiving a Gift Certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.